



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

March 6, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Martin Ackley, Director, Office of Public and Governmental Affairs

SUBJECT: State and Federal Legislative Update

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Two bills were discharged from the House Education committee today: House Bill 5268 (Lipton) and House Bill 5269 (Dillon). HB 5268 would provide for comprehensive school audits, monitoring, and implementation of transformation program for low-performing schools. HB 5269 would require a comprehensive statewide cost study to determine cost of meeting certain state public education goals. Some believe these bills might be an alternative to the EAA legislation (HB 4369) that has been sitting on the House floor since December 2013, after coming back from the Senate.

The House Education committee held two hearings in February on the educator/administrator evaluation legislation: House Bills 5223 and 5224.

Testimony was provided by Scott Menzel, representing Washtenaw ISD; EdTrust-Midwest; Gary Collins, representing Collins & Blaha, P.C.; Clarence Garner, representing the Grand Blanc Community Schools; Scot Graden, representing Saline Area Schools; Matt Wandrie, representing the Lapeer Community Schools; AFT of Michigan; Kent ISD Talent Triangle; Michigan Association of School Boards, Michigan Association of School Administrators; Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators; Michigan Parents for Schools; and members of the public.

The bills were not reported from the committee; there is no further hearing currently scheduled for them to be heard to date.

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The following education-related House bills also were introduced in February:

- HB 5281 (Franz) would revise the credentials for teachers of GSRP.
- HB 5285 (Potvin) would allow schools to not meet the day requirement if they meet the 1098 hours in 2013-2014 school year. If minutes are required to be added to each school day to make up the hours, there must be at least 30 minutes added to each day.
- HB 5371 (Stanley) would increase the number of Promise Zones permitted from 10 to 15.

MICHIGAN SENATE

The Senate held a hearing in late February and heard testimony on Senate Bill 644. This bill would allow strict discipline academies to enroll individuals placed in certain facilities operated by a private agency. This bill was reported from the committee on March 5.

The following education-related bills were introduced in January:

- SB 817 (Pappageorge) would modify the implementation dates for performance evaluation requirements for teachers and school administrators.

FEDERAL UPDATE

Protecting Student Privacy

Late last month, the U.S. Department of Education's Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) offered new guidance to school systems and educators surrounding best practices protecting student privacy while using online services. Topics covered included Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) and their major requirements.

To review this guidance and solicit feedback, the Department and PTAC will be hosting a joint webinar on March 13 at 2:30 p.m. ET. The webinar can be joined [here](#).

My Brother's Keeper initiative

President Obama recently unveiled a new initiative – My Brother's Keeper – that will test strategies to support young males of color by bringing together public, private and non-profit agencies. More information can be found at www.whitehouse.gov/my-brothers-keeper.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these or other legislative issues, please contact me at (517) 241-4395.